

Message Text

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SUBJ: CAB WAIVER FOR VISIT OF ITALIAN JOURNALISTS TO THE UNITED STATES

REF.: ROME 11916

FOR SECRETARY DENT FROM AMBASSADOR VOLPE

1. YOU'LL RECALL THAT DURING THE LUNCHEON IN WHICH YOU SO GRACIOUSLY INCLUDED ME THIS JUNE, I REFERRED TO OUR PROGRAMS FOR PROMOTING TRAVEL TO THE U.S., AND THE HIGH PRIORITY I HAVE PERSONALLY GIVEN TO THIS PROGRAM. SINCE THEN I AM VERY DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT WE NOW HAVE A PROBLEM OBTAINING A CAB WAIVER FOR THE IMMINENT TRAVEL OF NINE ITALIAN TRAVEL JOURNALISTS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AS GUESTS OF OUR VISIT USA COMMITTEE, AND OF THE VARIOUS LOCAL TOURISM PROMOTION BUREAUS IN THE U.S. THE PROBLEM AS I UNDERSTAND IT HERE IS THAT A CAB WAIVER FOR JOURNALISTS CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY UPON THE REQUEST OF THE US TRAVEL SERVICE. THE USTS, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, REQUESTS SUCH A WAIVER ONLY IF JOURNALISTS ARE TO VISIT THE US ON A USTS PROGRAM. SINCE USTS HAS NO PROGRAM FOR ITALY IT WILL NOT REQUEST THE WAIVER. WITHOUT A WAIVER THE JOURNALISTS' TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED.

2. THE REASON I SET UP THE VISIT USA COMMITTEE WAS TO ENSURE A US PRESENCE IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY HERE IN THE FACE OF AN EARLIER USTS DECISION TO PULL OUT OF THE ITALIAN MARKET. IF THIS COMMITTEE CANNOT OPERATE EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE THERE IS NO USTS PROGRAM THIS

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CLOSES A VICIOUS CIRCLE.

3. THE JOURNALISTS' TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED FOR MANY MONTHS. NINE US CITIES ARE COOPERATING FULLY, THE GATEWAY CITY OF BOSTON (AT MY PERSONAL REQUEST), SAN JUAN, MIAMI BEACH, NEW ORLEANS, SAN DIEGO, PHOENIX, SAN FRANCISCO, LAS VEGAS AND NEW YORK. EIGHT AIRLINES, PAN AMERICAN, TWA, EASTERN, AMERICAN, UNITED AIR WEST, NATIONAL AND ALITALIA SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE AND WILL PROVIDE SEATS. NINE IMPORTANT ITALIAN EDITORS AND TRAVEL EDITORS HAVE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION. THE JOURNALISTS ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SEPTEMBER 21. I WOULD HATE LOSE ALL THEIR GODDWILL AND INDEED, GENERATE ILL WILL BY CANCELLING A FULLY WORKED OUT PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF CAB WAIVER.

4. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING INTO THIS FOR ME AND DOING WHAT YOU CAN TO BREAK THIS BUREAUCRATIC IMPASSE. YOU, JOHN TABOR AND LANGHORN WASHBURN KNOW HOW STRONGLY I FEEL ABOUT THIS AND THAT I AM COUNTING ON YOUR HELP. VOLPE

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